

Five Years Too Late...

White House Institutes Ethics Briefings

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee, today issued the following statement regarding the start of mandatory ethics briefings for all White House personnel:

"There is something truly ironic about the White House's decision to finally educate all of its staffers on how to conduct themselves ethically. Simply put, the Administration is five years too late. After all, if someone doesn't have ethics by the time they get a job in the White House, they aren't likely to get them now.

"Where has Bush's commitment to honorable conduct been during his first term? Why has this President, a man who told us that he was going to restore dignity to the White House, permitted his Administration to rapidly become one of the most corrupt and unethical in modern American history?

"It will take much more than a few brief and belated seminars to convince the American people that they can trust their government again.

"If President Bush were truly concerned about promoting ethical conduct under his watch, he would begin by firing any and all personnel who are in any way linked to the many abuses and distortions of truth which have come to define this Administration. He promised us no less at the start of the CIA leak investigation. It's high time for Mr. Bush to start keeping his word.

"But as long as he refuses to, we can only imagine what is being taught in his ethics briefings." □